

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-21 and 41-56 were elected in a telephone conference between the undersigned and the Examiner on March 8, 2005, and this election is hereby affirmed. The non-elected Claims 22-40 and 57 are canceled herewith, and Applicants reserve the right to prosecute these canceled claims in a divisional application in future.

Claims 1-21 and 41-51 were allowed over the prior art of record. Therefore the following remarks are not directed to these claims.

Claim 52 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. The Examiner stated on page 4 in paragraph 2 of the Office Action that "**rebooting** when said monotonically changing byte reaches" (original emphasis) was not clear, because it was not known exactly what is being rebooted. Claim 52 has been revised to identify the line card as the item being rebooted. This amendment is supported throughout the originally-filed application, including, for example the following text at page 32 lines 15-21:

GK1 bit 7 is the line unit reset bit. It is driven to a debounce counter. When an active line unit reset is received (logic `1`), the debounce counter is released from reset. The debounce counter count increment when a1_oh_strb is high, once each frame. If the debounce count is not reset for greater than 47 frames, the lu_reset signal is high. This debounce function reduces the likelihood that spurious bit errors on the serial GigaPoint bus can cause an inadvertent line unit reset command.

Hence, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of Claim 52 and its dependent Claims 53-56 for this reason.

Claim 54 was also rejected 35 USC 112, in the middle of page 4 of the Office Action. Accordingly Claim 54 has been amended as shown above, by adding the word "in" between bit and byte. Support for this amendment is also found throughout the originally-filed application, including, for example the following text at page 37, lines 6-14:

The GS1 transports active/protect state of the RAP to the line units. The GigaPoint channel map page select is transported both to and from the line units. GS1 transports an 'extract' bit. This bit indicates that the remote line unit or RAP 115 is being extracted from the card cage (also called "chassis"). This bit normally goes active about a millisecond before the line unit is removed, e.g. because the pin is shorter than other pins in a connector between the chassis and the line unit. An early extraction signal is generated by the shorter pin being normally pulled up, and when the line unit is extracted, the pin loses power, and is no longer pulled up and instead is pulled down to zero, thereby to generate the extraction signal.

Hence, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of Claim 54.

Applicants also request the Examiner to reconsider the patentability of all pending claims in view of information which is being cited herewith, in a concurrently filed Information Disclosure Statement (IDS).

Applicants believe that all pending claims are in form for allowance. Hence, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this paper, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (408) 982-8203.

**Via Express Mail Label No.
EV 581 855 995 US**

Respectfully submitted,



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